

Garconniere on Barbarra Property
St. Rose P.O., Louisiana
ST. CHARLES PARISH

HABS No.18-12

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 18

Historic American Buildings Survey
Richard Koch, District Officer
614 Audubon Building, New Orleans, Louisiana

LA GARCONNIERE (Barbarra Plantation)

Near St. Rose St. Charles Parish Louisiana

Owner

V. & H. Barbarra

Date of Erection

Approximately 1820

Architect

Not Known

Builder

Not known

Present Condition

Building is in poor condition. All columns have been removed and replaced by wood posts. Original shingle roof has been covered with asphalt shingles.

Number of Stories

One

Materials of Construction

Walls and columns are of brick, plastered. Interior partitions are also of brick, plastered. Chimneys are of brick. Roof is of cypress, covered with asphalt shingles.

Other existing records:

Chain of Title in St. Charles Parish Courthouse.

In St. Charles Parish, near St. Rose, Louisiana, on the East Bank of the Mississippi River, about five hundred feet off the highway, is situated this garconniere, the only unit remaining of what was evidently at one time a splendid group of buildings, and shown on an old map as ROSE PLANTATION. Only a few heaps of broken bricks re-

main to indicate the location of the main house, the sugar house, and a similar garconniere.

Records in the St. Charles Parish Courthouse at Hahnville do not make clear when or by whom the buildings were built. On January 28, 1829, however, Louis LaBranche bought the property with all buildings, sugar house, master house, etc., from Alexander Cabaret, who had just inherited it from his father, Cabaret d'Etrapy. This would seem to indicate that the buildings were built by Cabaret, probably about 1820.

Louis LaBranche was a member of a prominent Louisiana family of the German Coast. The original name was Zweig, which was translated by a French priest in the marriage record as LABRANCHE.

A fine avenue of live oaks leads to the site of the main house. Two symmetrical garconniere (boys' houses) flanked the avenue at its river end. Only one of these remains, a simple building of plastered brick with a colonnaded porch on three sides. Its steeply pitched roof extends out over the colonnade and was probably covered with cypress shingles, although it is now roofed with green asphalt shingles. There are two large brick chimneys, one projecting from the front and one from the rear slop of the roof.

The colonnade is divided into six bays across the front and four on each side by round brick plastered columns on high octagon bases. Its floor is paved with soft red brick. The walls of the house as well as the interior partitions which divide it into four rooms are of brick, plastered inside and outside. The floors and ceilings are of

1-1/8" cypress alternating boards 7-3/4" wide, tongued on two edges and 8-1/2" grooved on two edges. The ceiling beams are exposed and the roof is framed with heavy cypress timbers.

There are two French doors in each room with batten shutters outside. The interior doors are double with well proportioned panels. Each room has a wood mantel of design typical of the period.

The walls of the house, the columns and the chimney tops are finished with lime plaster of a light pink color. The doors and trim are varnished and the shutters are painted green.

Since the building was measured by the HABS the columns have all been removed, due to their weak and unstable condition, and replaced with wooden posts. The house is otherwise in a fairly good state of repair.

CHAIN OF TITLE

Book T - pg. 163; June 18, 1917; J. E. Forcelle, Jr., N. P.

Bought from Mr. Olide Cambre, for \$9,900.00

Book O - pg. 107; Jan. 17, 1908; Jules F. Meunier, N. P.

Olide Cambre bought from Mr. David G. Murrel, Paducah, Kentucky, $2\frac{1}{2}$ arpents by 60 arpents.

Book N - pg. 404; June 1, 1906; John R. Upton, N. P.

Dr. David G. Murrel bought from Mabheo Songy, for \$7,500 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ arpents by 60 arpents.

Mabheol Songy bought from Augustine Lassigne. Property portion of the Mrs. Louis LeBranche Plantation. Price \$10,250.00.

Augustine Lassigne bought from Mrs. L. Cambre (Marcelite Moritz, widow of Lucien Cambre), Lewis Ory, Sheriff - Ten (10) arpents for \$14,000.00 - called the Louis LaBranche Plantation, also Rose Plantation - 5846 acres. Plantation originally had 30-2/3 arpents on front to Lake Pontchartrain.

Mrs. L. Cambre acquired from Pedro Landreaux and Miss Marie Louise Landreaux, for \$22,000.00 - 5846 acres, called the Louis LeBranche Plantation.

Pedro Lendreaux acquired in a suit filed through the Sheriff against Norbert Longue.

Norbert Longue acquired the property from Pedro Landreaux, et als, in the execusory proceedings entitled PEDRO LANDREAU ET ALS VS. FELIX GRIMA. #5597.

Felix Grima acquired from Mistress Marie Lescadie LaBranche, wife of Dr. Pierre Tricou of New Orleans, who acquired by succession of her mother, Cephise Piseras, widow of Louis LaBranche. Property measures 30-2/3 arpents by 60 arpents, sold for \$57,000.00. Succession signed by Sheriff on Oct. 31, 1866.

Widow Mrs. Louis LaBranche (Mistress Cephise Pisero) acquired property by succession of her husband, Louis LaBranche, deceased, by sale, in 1843.

" " General Index from 1734 to 1847 - pg. 50

" " Cabaret (Alex.) and LaBranche (Louis) - 1829.

Book 6 - pg. 68; Jan. 28, 1829; Felix deArmas, N. P.

Mr. Louis LaBranche acquired from Alexander Cabaret -
"ALL BUILDINGS, SUGAR HOUSE, MASTER'S HOUSE"
15-1/3 arpents by 40 arpents in depth, for \$87,500.00

Date Unknown

Alexander Cabaret acquired from his father, Cabaret d'Etrepy

In 1814

Cabaret & Albin Michael acquired from Robin Songy.

April 23, 1936

Carl J. Helbak
Samuel Wilson, Jr.

Rev. Aug. 21, '36 T.W.